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'ARAFAT: ISRAEL HAS NUCLEAR WEAPONS

LONDON REUTER IN ENGLISH 2245 GMT 3 APR 75 WA

(TEXT) DOHA, QATAR, APRIL 3, REUTER -- PALESTINE GUERRILLA LEADER YASIR 'ARAFAT DECLARED TONIGHT HE HAD CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE ISRAEL HAS AT LEAST THREE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ITS ARMORY.

HE TOLD A GATHERING OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PALESTINIANS IN THIS GULF STATE THAT ISRAEL NOT ONLY HAD ATOMIC BOMBS BUT ROCKETS CAPABLE OF CARRYING NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

"I MUST EMPHASIZE TO YOU -- AND WE HAVE OUR OWN SOURCES OF INFORMATION INSIDE ISRAEL -- THAT THEY HAVE BETWEEN THREE AND FIVE ATOMIC BOMBS, AND THE ROCKETS HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN READINESS FOR SOMETHING VERY BIG: SOONER OR LATER ISRAEL WILL RESORT TO WAR," HE SAID.

MR. 'ARAFAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO), BITTERLY ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES, WEST GERMANY AND HOLLAND OVER THEIR MIDDLE EAST POLICIES.

AMERICA WAS FEEDING ISRAEL WITH CASH AND WEAPONS TO THE POINT WHERE ITS ARMY HAD MORE TANKS, AIRCRAFT AND ROCKETS THAN BEFORE THE 1973 WAR, HE SAID.

HE SAID ISRAEL HAD EXPANDED ITS REGULAR FORCES FROM 80,000 TO 120,000 MEN AND ITS TANK STRENGTH FROM 1,400 TO 2,600.

WEST GERMANY AND HOLLAND, IGNORING THE LESSONS OF THE OCTOBER WAR, WERE GIVING ISRAEL BOTH MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT, HE ADDED.

THERE WAS NO DOUBT ISRAEL WAS PREPARING FOR ANOTHER WAR, HE SAID. "I CAN SEE IT IN FRONT OF ME."

"BUT I HOPE THE DECISION TO GO TO WAR WILL NOT BE AN ISRAELI DECISION, BECAUSE THEY ARE PREPARING FOR A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE," MR. 'ARAFAT SAID.

MR. 'ARAFAT TOLD HIS AUDIENCE: "I MUST ADVISE THE AMERICANS THAT IF THEY GIVE A ROCKET AND A WARPLANE TO EVERY ISRAELI, THE ARAB NATION WILL STILL WIN...THE DIMENSION OF THE STRUGGLE IS OUR CIVILIZATION AGAINST THEIR BARBARISM."

HE WAS GIVEN A FIVE-MINUTE STANDING OVATION.

THE GUERRILLA LEADER FLEW HERE, AFTER TALKS IN KUWAIT AND BAHRAIN, ON A TRIP HE SAID WAS AIMED AT REINFORCING ARAB SOLIDARITY FOR A NEWLY DANGEROUS PHASE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

HE SAID ANOTHER U.S. EFFORT TO SECURE AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT WAS TO BE EXPECTED AFTER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S LATEST MIDDLE EAST PEACE MISSION ENDED IN DEADLOCK.

BUT HE ASKED HOW THE ISRAELIS COULD GIVE UP VALUABLE LAND ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN OR ELSEWHERE IF THEY REFUSED A SMALL PIECE OF WILDERNESS IN SINAI.

MR. 'ARAFAT TOLD A GATHERING OF PALESTINIANS IN BAHRAIN LAST NIGHT THAT U.S. SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN ASKED HIM RECENTLY IF HE WANTED TO GO TO A NEW SESSION OF THE GENEVA MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS.

HE SAID HE HAD REPLIED: "FIRST I MUST KNOW WHICH GENEVA THEY WANT ME TO GO TO.

"IS IT THE UMBRELLA GENEVA, FOR THE STEP-BY-STEP SOLUTION?

"IS IT THE GENEVA WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE JUST A WITNESS?

"IS IT THE GENEVA OF RESOLUTION 242 WHICH THE PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL, THE HIGHEST PALESTINIAN LEGISLATIVE BODY, REJECTED, THEREBY COMMITTING THE PLO TO REJECT IT?

"OR IS IT THE GENEVA WHERE THE WHOLE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IN ITS ENTIRETY WILL BE ON THE TABLE FOR DISCUSSION?"

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